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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Niger*, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America: draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,[1]

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as its resolutions 55/218 of 21 December 2000, 56/48 of 7 December 2001, 57/48 of 21 November 2002, 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009,

Recalling also the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 in Lomé,[2]

Recalling further the decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at all its ordinary and extraordinary sessions,

Welcoming the adoption of the framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union set out in the declaration on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation, signed in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 by the Secretary-General and the Chair of the African Union Commission,[3] which highlights the key areas for cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] A/65/382-S/2010/490.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2158, No. 37733.

[3] A/61/630, annex.

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Acknowledging the decision taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its sixty-eighth meeting, held on 14 December 2006, on the establishment of a coordination and consultation mechanism between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, and welcoming the June 2007 agreement to hold joint meetings at least once a year,[4] noting that such meetings offer an important platform for dialogue, and in this regard welcoming the fourth consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 9 July 2010, and welcoming also the first joint consultative meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, held on 8 July 2010,

Recalling the adoption of the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact at the fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union,[5] as an instrument to reinforce cooperation among States members of the African Union in the areas of defence and security and, in particular, to contribute to the work of the African Union Peace and Security Council and its cooperation with the United Nations,

Welcoming, while taking into account the role of the General Assembly, the statements by the President of the Security Council of 19 November 2004 on the institutional relationship with the African Union,[6] of 28 March 2007 on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security,[7] and of 18 March 2009 on peace and security in Africa,[8] as well as Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Welcoming also the efforts to enhance cooperation between the peace and security structure of the United Nations and the peace and security architecture of the African Union in the realms of conflict prevention and resolution, early warning, mediation, crisis management, peacekeeping, security sector reform and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa, including efforts to implement the African Union Framework for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development,

Acknowledging the significant contribution made by the African Union towards the prevention and combating of terrorism, and noting the centrality of the international partnership and cooperation among the African Union, the relevant United Nations organs and the wider international community in the global fight against terrorism,

Recognizing the need to enhance the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union, as a basis for a more effective partnership embodying the principles of mutual respect when addressing issues of mutual concern,

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[4] See S/2007/386, annex.

[5] See Assembly/AU/Dec.71 (IV).

[6] S/PRST/2004/44; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2004-31 July 2005*.

[7] S/PRST/2007/7; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2006-31 July 2007*.

[8] S/PRST/2009/3; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2008-31 July 2009*.

Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[18] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[19]

Noting the adoption of the African Maritime Transport Charter by the Assembly of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Kampala in July 2010, as an instrument that can help to enhance international trade and development,

Emphasizing the importance of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development at which the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development was adopted,[20] the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[21] and stressing the importance for all Member States of the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[22] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[23]

Recalling, the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption,[24] and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa,[25] adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003,

Recommitting to improving the effectiveness of development assistance, including the fundamental principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability, and calling for a continuing dialogue to improve the effectiveness of aid, including the full implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action[26] by countries and organizations that commit to it,

Acknowledging the contribution of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of peace and security, and recognizing the efforts made to consolidate the Office so as to enhance its performance in view of the expanding scope for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in those areas,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union will contribute to the advancement of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the development of Africa,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] calls for the implementation of the declaration on enhancing United Nations-African

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[18] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales. No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex.

[19] See resolution 60/1.

[20] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap I, resolution 1, annex I; see also resolution 63/152.

[21] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[22] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[23] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap I, resolution 1, annex.

[24] See Assembly/AU/Dec.27 (II).

[25] See Assembly/AU/Dec.114 (II).

[26] A/63/539, annex.

Union cooperation: framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union,[3] and in this regard takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union,[27] and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Secretariat and to implement its mandate with respect to meeting the special needs of Africa in accordance with the established United Nations procedures;

2. *Recalls* the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and requests the United Nations system to intensify its assistance to the African Union, as appropriate, in strengthening the African peace and security architecture, including the institutional and operational capacity of its Peace and Security Council, and in coordinating with other international partners when needed;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to pursue the ongoing measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, and in this regard, welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa, integrating the United Nations Liaison Office to the African Union, and also welcomes the appointment of an Assistant Secretary-General to head the Office with a view to intensifying, improving and better coordinating United Nations engagement with the African Union in existing and emerging areas of cooperation in peace and security and political and humanitarian affairs, and recommends speedy implementation to ensure the adequate handling of the responsibilities related to coordinating the United Nations system in those areas, including implementing relevant aspects of the ten-year capacity-building programme, in order to enhance the strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregions;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, and encourages the Regional Office and the United Nations Office for West Africa to deepen their relationships with the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, respectively, in order to further strengthen United Nations-African Union cooperation;

5. *Recognizes* the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for regional organizations, including the African Union, when they undertake peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate, and notes the determination of the Security Council to continue working on this issue in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter;

6. *Welcomes* the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations,[28] and the related statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 October 2010,[29] as important steps towards the further strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts by the African Union to address the issue of the protection of civilians in armed conflict and in the context

[27] A/65/716-S/2011/54.
[28] A/65/510-S/2010/514.
[29] S/PRST/2010/21.

of peacekeeping operations, and encourages the African Union to continue those efforts;

8. *Welcomes* the launching, in New York on 25 September 2010, of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security of the United Nations and the African Union, as an important framework for furthering the strategic partnership on peace and security between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, and calls for the full implementation of the agreed terms of reference of the Task Force;

9. *Stresses* the urgent need for the United Nations and the African Union to develop close cooperation and concrete programmes aimed at addressing the problems posed by landmines, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, in particular trafficking in persons and drugs, within the framework of the relevant declarations and resolutions adopted by the two organizations;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, the African Union and the international community to intensify their cooperation in the global fight against terrorism through the implementation of the relevant international and regional treaties and protocols and, in particular, the African Plan of Action adopted in Algiers on 14 September 2002, as well as their support for the operation of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, inaugurated in Algiers in October 2004;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to intensify its efforts, in collaboration with the African Union, in combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources, in particular in conflict areas, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and the African Union;

12. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its support for the African Union and its member States in their efforts to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and requests the Secretary-General and the international community to fulfil the commitments that they undertook during the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in 2008, and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in September 2010;

13. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate closely with the African Union Commission and its structures relating to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in particular through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in order to enhance overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all the development programmes and projects of all international development stakeholders;

14. *Stresses* the need for closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the African Union, in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement[30] and other relevant memorandums of understanding between the two organizations, in particular in the implementation of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[14] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[19] and as regards achieving the internationally agreed development goals,

[30] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1580, No. 1044.

including the Millennium Development Goals, at the national, subregional and regional levels;

15. *Urges* the United Nations system to increase its support for Africa in the implementation of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja in April 2001,[31] and to extend that support until 2015 to coincide with the envisaged date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[32] so as to eradicate or control the spread of those diseases, inter alia, through sound capacity-building in human resources;

16. *Invites* the United Nations system to enhance its support for African countries in their efforts to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[18] and to support efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation among the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to address the development challenges of Africa, including the efforts for the eradication of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, as decided by the Assembly of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Kampala in July 2010;

17. *Notes* the establishment on 11 October 2010 of a joint secretariat for the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to be based at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission in Addis Ababa, to enhance coherence and cooperation and information-sharing as well as build stronger links among the departments and divisions of the three institutions in support of the development agenda of Africa;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations to take special measures, as appropriate, to address the challenges of poverty eradication through the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, noting the importance of addressing, inter alia, debt cancellation, enhanced official development assistance, increases in flows of foreign direct investment and voluntary transfer of technology, the World Food Programme, the agriculture partnership to combat hunger, universal primary education initiatives, gender equality programmes, improved maternal health programmes, and HIV/AIDS education;

19. *Also encourages* the deepening of collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union, recalling the African Union framework for post-conflict reconstruction and development, and the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission to enhance international support for African countries on the agenda of the Commission, and reiterates the need for enhanced coordination and consultations between the Commission and the African Union on assistance for countries emerging from conflict;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General to request all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to intensify their efforts to support cooperation with the African Union, including through the implementation of the protocols to the Constitutive Act of the African Union[2] and the Treaty establishing the African

[31] Organization of African Unity, document OAU/SPS/ABUJA/3.

[32] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

Economic Community,[33] and, in cooperation with other international partners, to assist in harmonizing the programmes of the African Union with those of the African regional economic communities with a view to enhancing regional economic cooperation and integration;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations system to effectively support the efforts of the African Union by urging the international community to strive for the successful and timely completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations, including negotiations aimed at substantial improvements in areas such as trade-related measures, including market access, to promote sustainable growth in Africa;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action contained in the document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted on 10 May 2002 at the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children,[34] and to provide assistance, as appropriate, to the African Union and its member States in this regard, welcomes the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of children, and in this regard recalls the adoption of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children (2008-2012);[35]

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the African Union to develop a coherent and effective strategy, including through joint programmes and activities, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa, within the framework of the implementation of regional and international treaties, resolutions and plans of action adopted by the two organizations;

24. *Requests* the United Nations system to cooperate with the African Union and its member States in the implementation of appropriate policies for the promotion of the culture of democracy, including the effective application of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as well as the promotion of good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the strengthening of democratic institutions and in this regard notes that the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held on 30 and 31 January 2011, had the theme "Towards greater unity and integration through shared values";

25. *Urges* the United Nations system to continue to implement General Assembly resolutions 58/149 of 22 December 2003 and 63/149 of 18 December 2008, on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, and effectively to support African countries in their efforts to incorporate the problems of refugees into national and regional development plans, and in this regard recalls the Plan of Action for the implementation of the outcome of the 2009 Special Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention), adopted on 23 October 2009;

26. *Welcomes and supports* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to support gender equality, the empowerment of women and social development, and recalls in this regard the declaration of the African Women's Decade by the

[33] A/46/651, annex.

[34] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[35] A/62/653, annex.

Assembly of the African Union in February 2009,[36] and the African Union Gender Policy,[37] the Social Policy Framework for Africa[38] and the Windhoek Declaration on Social Development,[38] as adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union in January 2009;

27. *Welcomes* the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General for UN-Women;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations to work with the African Union and its partners to ensure the more effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council relating to women and peace and security, including resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010);

29. *Recalls* its resolution 63/250 of 24 December 2008 on human resources management, and urges the Secretary-General to encourage the United Nations system to work, within existing rules and regulations, towards ensuring the effective and equitable representation of African men and women at senior and policy levels at the respective headquarters of its organizations and in their regional fields of operation;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations and the African Union to pursue joint initiatives for partnerships in Africa through, inter alia, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations Office for Partnerships;

31. *Takes note* of the comprehensive report on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward",[39] including recommendations, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 39 of its resolution 63/1 of 22 September 2008, and in this regard looks forward to the formulation, by the end of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, of a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to the development of Africa, building on existing mechanisms, to ensure that Member States remain seized of the issue of addressing the special development needs of Africa;

32. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the Chair of the African Union Commission, working in collaboration, to review every two years the progress made in the cooperation between the two organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to include the results of the review in his next report;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[36] See A/63/848, annex II, decision Assembly/AU/Dec.229 (XII).
[37] Ibid., annex I, decision EX.CL/Dec.487 (XIV).
[38] Ibid., decision EX.CL/Dec.473 (XIV).
[39] A/64/208.